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WATER LEVELS OF KOREAN RIVERS  
NORTH OF THE 38TH PARALLEL

A. Yalu River

The maximum levels of the Yalu River range from 9.7 meters in August 1926 at Kuryongp'o to 1.22 meters in July 1929 at Hyesanjin, which is near the river's source. At Sinuiju, near the estuary, the maximum level was 6.73 meters in August 1926. At Wiwon on the middle reach of this river where the Tokno Kang, one of the tributaries in P'yongan Pukto, meets the Yalu, the maximum water level was 6.10 meters in July 1929. The maximum levels in July 1929, at other points on the Yalu were: 2.36 meters at Singapa'jin, 5.6 meters at Huch'ang Kanggu, 3.78 meters at Chunggangjin, 4.15 meters at Manp'ojin, 5.53 meters at Kosanjin, 8.3 meters at Ch'angsang, 9.52 meters at Sugujin, and 6.0 meters at Kanggye.

The minimum water levels of the Yalu River occurred during the months of November, December, and January 1930, ranging from 0.54 meters at Chunggangjin, to 1.85 meters at Ch'angsang. Proceeding downstream from Singapa'jin, which is south of the Paektu San, the minimum levels in 1930 were 0.92 meters at Singapa'jin; 0.49 meters at Huch'ang Kanggu, 0.54 meters at Chunggangjin, 0.85 meters at Kosanjin, 0.71 meters at Wiwon, and 1.54 meters at Kuryongp'o.

At Kuryongp'o, which is a little north of Sinuiju, the average water level in 1930 was 2.49 meters. The spring tidal range in 1930 was from 0.46 meters to 3.73 meters, while the neap tidal range in 1930 was from 0.34 meters to 1.79 meters at Sinuiju.

The main channel of the Yalu River is suitable for water traffic only for a period of about 6 months from April through October, by junks and the motorboats of less than 100 tons.

B. Ch'ongch'on Kang

This river runs parallel to the Yalu River in P'yongyang Pukto. The maximum water level on the Ch'ongch'on Kang was 9.38 meters in August 1925 at Yongt'an, which is due north of Pakch'on. During the months of July and August 1925, the

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water levels ranged from 9.38 to 6.30 meters in Yongbyon. Near Anju, where the Manp'ojin Railroad Line connects with the P'yongyang-Sinuiju Railroad Line, the maximum level was 6.55 meters in August 1925. Further upstream, at Pukwon, the maximum level reached 7.3 meters, while downstream, at Tongsari, it was 7.18 meters in August 1925.

Along the Taeryong Kang, a tributary of the Ch'ongch'on Kang, the maximum level at Yongam was 7.58 meters in July 1922; at the estuary, the maximum level was 7.78 meters.

The minimum level at Yongbyon was 0.22 meters and at Puksong-ri, near Anju, 0.82 meters in December 1930.

At the junction of the main channel of the Ch'ongch'on Kang and the Taeryong Kang, in 1930, the spring tidal range was from 0.16 meters to 3.75 meters and the neap tidal range from 0.18 to 1.94 meters.

#### C. Taedong Kang

The Taedong Kang originates in the northeastern corner of P'yongyang Namdo, where the mountains, Sobaek San, Yangnim San, Myohyang San, and the Pyongp'ung San form a watershed in the shape of a folding screen. The river flows through the entire length of P'yongan Namdo, skirting the city of P'yongyang, and discharges into the harbor of Chinnamp'o.

The maximum water levels on the main channel ranged between 12.4 meters in August 1922 at Mujindae, which is near Sunch'on where the river bends sharply to the southerly direction, and 3.75 meters in August 1929 at Sinsong, where its tributary, the Chaeryong Kang centers. The maximum level near P'yongyang was 9.45 meters in August 1923. Further downstream at Taeanni, which is northwest of Kyomip'o, the maximum level was 7 meters in August 1922.

Besides the Chaeryong Kang, there are two other large tributaries entering into the Taedong Kang from the right. They are the Pulyu Kang, whose maximum water level was 5.06 meters in August 1922 at Songch'on; and the Nam Kang, whose maximum water level reached 12.9 meters in August 1923 at Samdung. The latter tributary joins the main channel of the Taedong Kang near Maekchon, where the maximum level was 10 meters in August 1922. The maximum level at the nearby Changsuwon was 7.98 meters in August 1925.

The drainage basin of the Chaeryong Kang, the major tributary of the Taedong Kang, includes nearly all of Hwanghae Do and provides rich farmlands to this province. On this channel, the maximum levels ranged between 11.85 meters in August 1922, at Haech'ang, and 3.18 meters in July 1927, at Soksong.

During the winter months from December to February, the water level of the Taedong Kang is normally less than one meter. However, a survey in 1930 showed that on the Chaeryong Kang, the minimum water level was in June, especially at Sat'andon.

At P'yongyang, the spring tidal range in 1930 was from 0.46 meters to 1.68 meters while the neap tidal range in 1930 was from 0.28 meters to 0.62 meters.

#### D. Yesong Kang

The maximum water levels of the Yesong Kang ranged between 14.2 meters at Kumch'on, Hwanghae Do, and 3.2 meters at Oksan-ri, which is near the estuary, during the summer months of 1921-29. However, in June 1930, the level at Kumch'on was 0.55 meters but in the following month, the water level reached 6.25 meters at the same point. The normal level for 1930 at this point was 0.74 meters.

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At Soksan-ri, where the tributary Hankyoch'on joins the Yesong Kang, the spring tidal range in 1930 was from 0.64 meters to 4.48 meters, while the neap tidal range in 1930 was from 0.58 to 2.5 meters.

E. Anbyon Namtaech'on Kang

This river discharges into the Sea of Japan south of Wonsan. The maximum water levels in July 1930 were 4.51 meters at Anbyon and 2.52 meters at the estuary.

F. Yonghung Kang

The Yonghung Kang lies north of Wonsan. The river's maximum water level was 8.11 meters registered at Yonghung, in August 1922. A little further upstream near Changt'anni, the maximum level was 6.50 meters in July 1923 and at the estuary, 4.55 meters in October 1919.

The Wonsan-Nanam Railroad Line crosses the main channel of this river near Yonghung and its tributary, the Tokji Kang, at Kowon. The maximum water level at Kowon was 4.23 meters in October 1919. The river is usually dry in January. The average level at the estuary observed in 1930 was 0.52 meters. The spring tidal range in 1930 at the estuary was from 0.70 meters to 1.06 meters, while the neap tidal range was from 0.59 to 0.88 meters.

G. Songch'on Kang

The Songch'on Kang skirts the cities of Hamhung and Hungnam. At Hamhung, the maximum level was 4.15 meters in August 1928. At Haso-ri, the maximum level was 3.95 meters, in August 1928, but further upstream, at Oro-ri, the maximum level was 4.85 meters in September 1919.

At Hamhung, the water was as low as 0.48 meters in January 1930.

H. Pukch'ong Namdae Ch'on

The Pukch'ong Namdae Ch'on branches into two channels at Chungri, near Pukch'ong and the two channels then flow into the Sea of Japan. Below Pukch'ong, the channel flowing past Sinch'ang is called the Sinch'ang Ch'on. Presumably, the other channel is called the Pukch'ong Namdae Ch'on. Just above Pukch'ong, at Namdaekyo, the maximum water level in July 1930 was 1.38 meters. At Chungri, where the river forks, the maximum level was 1.43 meters in July 1939, and at the estuary, 1.35 meters in June 1929.

At the Sinch'ang Ch'on mouth, the spring tidal range in 1930, recorded at Sinch'ang, was from 0.54 meters to 0.72 meters, while the neap tidal range was from 0.44 to 0.59 meters.

I. Susong Ch'on

The Susong Ch'on, originating near the railroad junction of Komusan, flows between Ch'ongjin and Nanam. At Susong, a little north of Ch'ongjin, the maximum water level was 1.57 meters in July 1929 and at Ch'ongon, near the estuary 1.96 meters. However, the 1930 survey found the tidal range at Susong between 0.83 and 2.1 meters, and at Ch'ongon between 1.49 and 3.23 meters during the summer months. The average near the mouth is somewhere between 1.11 and 1.71 meters, according to the same 1930 survey.

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J. Tumen River

The maximum water level of the Tumen River was 6.52 meters in August 1928 at Hayop'yong, north of Unggi. At Haeryong, near the Manchurian border, a maximum level of 0.84 meters was recorded in July 1928. At Hunyung, near the point where the river bends sharply in a southerly direction, the maximum level was 2.1 meters in July 1929. Near Unggi, 6.25 meters was recorded in August 1929.

Ordinarily, the water is shallow during the months of November, December, and January.

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